

Appl. No.: 09/896,853
Response dated January 26, 2004
Reply to Office action of November 28, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): A process for enhancing cleaning performance of an aqueous laundry detergent composition comprising adding a hydroxy mixed ether to the composition.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The process of claim 17 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether corresponds to formula

(I):



wherein R¹ is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R² is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R³ is hydrogen or methyl, R⁴ is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to about 22 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to about 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R¹ and R² is at least 6.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The process of claim 17 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 60% by weight, based on the

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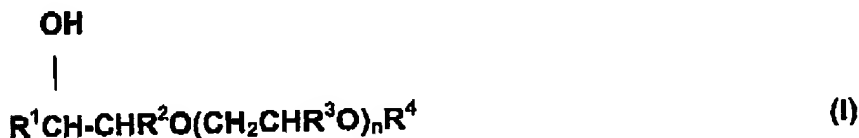
weight of the composition.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The process of claim 17 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 10 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The process of claim 17 wherein the composition further comprises a co-surfactant component selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, a cationic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant, a zwitterionic surfactant, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The process of claim 21 wherein the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A process for cleaning textiles comprising contacting the textiles with an aqueous laundry detergent containing a hydroxy mixed ether corresponding to formula (I):



wherein R¹ is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R² is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R³ is hydrogen or methyl, R⁴ is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group

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containing from 1 to about 22 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to about 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R^1 and R^2 is at least 6.

Claim 24 (new): The process of claim 23 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 60% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 25 (new): The process of claim 23 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 10 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 26 (new): The process of claim 23 wherein the composition further comprises a co-surfactant component selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, a cationic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant, a zwitterionic surfactant, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 27 (new): The process of claim 26 wherein the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

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